



PLACER COUNTY
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EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

DATE/TIME OF RELEASE: DECEMBER 19, 2001/ 4:35 PM
DATE/TIME OF OCCURRENCE: DECEMBER 18, 2001/ 7:35 PM
NATURE OF CALL: OVERDUE SKIER
LOCATION OF CALL: SQUAW VALLEY SKI CORP
CASE NUMBER: S001-21658
SUSPECTS:

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

At first light on 12/19/01, additional resources were committed to the search for Evan Matteo, a missing and overdue skier at the Squaw Valley Ski Resort since 7:35 PM on 12/18/01. These resources included The Washoe County Search and Rescue Team, The California Highway Patrol's fixed wing aircraft "Air 21", The Placer County Sheriff's Department's helicopter "Falcon 30", and a 15 man element of the United States Marine Corps.

At approximately 8:15 AM, Matteo was located by "Air-21" in the area of Tinker's Knob. Air Ambulance "Calstar-6" was overhead at 9:01 AM, and picked Matteo up and transported him to a landing zone in the Squaw Valley Parking lot. Matteo told Placer County Deputies that he was hungry and thirsty, but otherwise in good health. He was then transported to the Tahoe Truckee Medical Group's office in Squaw Valley, where he was examined and found to be suffering no ill effects from his night outdoors.

Matteo told Sheriff's Deputies that he had skied off the backside of the Granite Chief run. He passed an "out of bounds" sign, but believed it was for another area, off to his left. He eventually realized he was no longer within the ski area, so he skied and walked along a stream until dark, when he stopped and made a snow cave, where he slept during the night. At dawn he decided to hike up to a ridge above him in an effort to be visible to searchers. When he heard the aircraft overhead, he lay in the snow and waved his arms to attract attention. The aircraft then circled him until both a helicopter and members of the Tahoe Nordic Team arrived at his location.

RELEASED BY: Sgt. David Cutting, S-29

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